

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system comprising:

inputting patient health data reflecting a current state of ~~a patient~~patients in geographically dispersed health care locations and treatment objectives for the ~~patient~~patients to an input device, wherein the patient health data is inputted via formatted input options presented by the input device and wherein the input device is connected to a network;

receiving the patient health data in the healthcare system via the network;

monitoring patient data elements of the ~~patient~~patients;

communicating the monitored patient data elements from the geographically dispersed health care locations to a remote command center via the network, wherein the remote command center comprises a database;

storing the monitored patient data elements in the database, wherein the database comprises stored patient data elements;

creating a rule for ~~the a~~a patient using the patient health data and the patient data elements;

applying the rule continuously to selected patient data elements stored in the database to search for patterns of data and to produce an output indicative of a change in a medical condition of the patient; and

utilizing the output to determine if intervention is warranted,

wherein the monitoring and determining if intervention is warranted for the patient occurs in an automated fashion at the remote command center 24 hours per day 7 days per week.

10. (Currently Amended) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of ~~claim 1~~claim 9, wherein inputting patient health data comprises inputting data on remote devices selected from the group consisting of wired devices and wireless devices.

11. (Currently Amended) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein inputting patient health data reflecting the current state of the patients comprises:

- selecting a note template;
- selecting a structured data element associated with the selected template, wherein the selected structured data element is indicative of the current state of the patient and the treatment objectives for the patient, and incorporating the selected structured data element into the selected note template to create a completed template;
- associating the completed template with the patient; and
- releasing the completed template to the healthcare system.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 11, wherein receiving the patient health data in the healthcare system comprises:

- time stamping the patient health data when it is released to the healthcare system; and
- storing the time stamped patient health data in a datastore accessible to remote command center.

13. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein the patient rule comprises an algorithm.

14. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise a physiological data element of the patient and a clinical data element of the patient.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise a physiological data element of the patient and a medication data element of the patient.

16. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise a physiological data element of the patient and a laboratory data element of the patient.

17. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise a clinical data element of the patient and a laboratory data element of the patient.

18. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise a physiological data element of the patient and another physiological data element of the patient.

19. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise at least two data elements of the patient selected from the group consisting of a physiological data element, a clinical data element of the patient, a medication data element of the patient, and a laboratory data element of the patient.

20. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein utilizing the output from the rules engine to determine if intervention is warranted comprises utilizing the output to determine whether to issue a patient intervention protocol and order.

21. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein utilizing the output to determine if intervention is warranted comprises utilizing the output to determine whether to issue a patient release protocol and order.

22. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein the patient data elements are selected from the group consisting of physiological data elements and clinical data elements.

23. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein the output indicative of the change in the medical condition of the patient comprises an output indicative of improvement of the condition of the patient.

24. (Previously Presented) The method for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system of claim 9, wherein the output indicative of the change in the medical condition of the patient comprise data indicative of degradation of the condition of the patient.

25. (Currently Amended) A system for utilizing physician notes in a healthcare system comprising:

a network;

an input device connected to the network, wherein the input device comprises instructions for:

presenting formatted input options; and

receiving patient health data reflecting a current state of ~~a patient~~ patients in geographically dispersed health care locations and treatment objectives for the ~~patient~~ patients in accordance with the formatted input options;

monitoring stations comprising monitoring equipment comprising instructions for monitoring data elements from ~~geographically dispersed hospitalized patients in the geographically dispersed healthcare locations~~ and sending the monitored data elements to a remote command center via the network, and wherein the remote command center comprises:

- a database, wherein the database comprises stored patient data elements relating to the ~~patient~~ patients;
- a computerized patient care management system, wherein the computerized patient care management system comprises instructions for:
 - receiving the monitored patient data elements from the plurality of geographically dispersed ~~ICUs~~ health care locations;
 - storing the monitored patient data elements in the database;
 - creating a rule for ~~the a~~ a patient using the patient health data and the patient data elements;
 - applying the rule continuously to selected patient data elements stored in the database to search for patterns of data and to produce an output indicative of a change in a medical condition of the patient; and
 - utilizing the output to determine if intervention is warranted, wherein the monitoring and determining if intervention is warranted for the patient occurs in an automated fashion at the remote command center 24 hours per day 7 days per week.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the patient health data input device comprises devices selected from the group consisting of wired devices and wireless devices.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25 wherein the healthcare system further comprises structured data elements stored in a datastore accessible to users of the healthcare system, and wherein the healthcare system further comprises instructions for:

completing and releasing applicable structured data elements; and
making the released structured data elements accessible to a user having access to the
datastore;
time stamping the patient health data when it is release by a physician; and
storing the time stamped patient health in the datastore.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the patient rule comprises an algorithm.
29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise a physiological data element of the patient and a clinical data element of the patient.
30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise a physiological data element of the patient and a medication data element of the patient.
31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise a physiological data element of the patient and a laboratory data element of the patient.
32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise a clinical data element of the patient and a laboratory data element of the patient.
33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise a physiological data element of the patient and another physiological data element of the patient.
34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the selected patient data elements comprise at least two data elements of the patient selected from the group consisting of a physiological data element, a clinical data element of the patient, a medication data element of the patient, and a laboratory data element of the patient.
35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein intervention comprises issuing a patient intervention protocol and order.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein intervention comprises issuing a patient release protocol and order.
37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein patient data elements are selected from the group consisting of physiological data elements and clinical data elements.
38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the output indicative of the change in the medical condition of the patient comprises an output indicative of improvement of the condition of the patient.
39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the output indicative of the change in the medical condition of the patient comprises an output indicative of degradation of the condition of the patient.